

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A keyboard comprising:
 - a first keyboard segment, the first keyboard segment including keys;
 - a second keyboard segment, the second keyboard segment including keys; and
 - a joint coupling the first keyboard segment and the second keyboard segment, the joint allowing movement of the first keyboard segment and the second keyboard segment relative to one another, the joint including a locking mechanism, the locking mechanism locking a position of the first keyboard segment relative to the second keyboard segment, the locking mechanism including a cam.
2. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein:
 - the locking mechanism includes a lever movable from a locking position to an unlocking position, the lever moving the cam.
3. The keyboard of claim 2, wherein:
 - the lever is pivotally mounted on a pin.
4. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein:
 - the locking mechanism includes a bearing element, the cam being connected to the bearing element, movement of the cam causing movement of the bearing element.
5. The keyboard of claim 4, wherein:
 - the joint includes a ball, the bearing element engaging the ball in a locked position to lock the first segment relative to the second segment.

6. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein:
the joint is a ball-and-socket joint.
7. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein:
the locking mechanism includes a biasing element, the biasing element
biasing the cam and lever.
8. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein:
the joint includes a ball, the ball being affixed to one of the keyboard
segments.
9. The keyboard of claim 8, wherein:
the cam directly contacts the ball.
10. The keyboard of claim 8, wherein:
the ball is hemispherical.
11. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein:
the joint includes a socket element, the socket element being affixed to
one of the keyboard segments.
12. The keyboard of claim 11, wherein:
the joint includes a ball, the ball being affixed to another of the
keyboard segments.
13. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein:
the locking mechanism includes a movable bearing element.
14. The keyboard of claim 13, wherein:
the movable bearing element has a hemispherical surface.

15. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein:
the first keyboard segment and the second keyboard segment are positionable relative to one another to reduce pronation of a user's wrists.
16. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein:
the first keyboard segment and the second keyboard segment are positionable relative to one another to reduce ulnar deviation of a user's wrists.
17. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein:
the joint is adapted to allow pivoting of the first keyboard segment and the second keyboard segment in both horizontal and vertical directions.
18. A keyboard comprising:
a first keyboard segment, the first keyboard segment including keys;
a second keyboard segment, the second keyboard segment including keys; and
a joint coupling the first keyboard segment and the second keyboard segment, the joint allowing movement of the first keyboard segment and the second keyboard segment relative to one another, the joint including a locking mechanism, the locking mechanism locking a position of the first keyboard segment relative to the second keyboard segment, the locking mechanism including a lever movable from a locking position to an unlocking position.
19. The keyboard of claim 18, wherein:
the locking mechanism includes a bearing element and a cam, the cam being connected to the bearing element, movement of the cam causing movement of the bearing element.

20. The keyboard of claim 18, wherein:
the joint includes a ball and a bearing element, the bearing element engaging the ball in the locked position to lock the first segment relative to the second segment.
21. The keyboard of claim 18, wherein:
the joint is a ball-and-socket joint.
22. The keyboard of claim 19, wherein:
the locking mechanism includes a biasing element, the biasing element biasing the cam and lever.
23. The keyboard of claim 18, wherein:
the joint includes a ball, the ball being affixed to one of the keyboard segments.
24. The keyboard of claim 23, further comprising:
a cam, the cam directly contacting the ball.
25. The keyboard of claim 23, wherein:
the ball is hemispherical.
26. The keyboard of claim 18, wherein:
the joint includes a socket element, the socket element being affixed to one of the keyboard segments.
27. The keyboard of claim 26, wherein:
the joint includes a ball, the ball being affixed to another of the keyboard segments.

28. The keyboard of claim 18, wherein:
the locking mechanism includes a movable bearing element.
29. The keyboard of claim 28, wherein:
the movable bearing element has a hemispherical surface.
30. The keyboard of claim 18, wherein:
the first keyboard segment and the second keyboard segment are
positionable relative to one another to reduce pronation of a user's wrists.
31. The keyboard of claim 18, wherein:
the first keyboard segment and the second keyboard segment are
positionable relative to one another to reduce ulnar deviation of a user's wrists.
32. The keyboard of claim 18, wherein:
the joint is adapted to allow pivoting of the first keyboard segment and
the second keyboard segment in both horizontal and vertical directions.
33. A keyboard comprising:
a first keyboard segment, the first keyboard segment including keys;
a second keyboard segment, the second keyboard segment including
keys; and
a joint coupling the first keyboard segment and the second keyboard
segment, the joint allowing movement of the first keyboard segment and the
second keyboard segment relative to one another, the joint including a locking
mechanism, the locking mechanism locking a position of the first keyboard
segment relative to the second keyboard segment, the locking mechanism
including a movable bearing element movable relative to the first keyboard
segment and the second keyboard segment.

34. The keyboard of claim 33, wherein:
the movable bearing element has a hemispherical surface.
35. The keyboard of claim 34, wherein:
the locking mechanism includes a lever movable from a locking position to an unlocking position.
36. The keyboard of claim 33, wherein:
the locking mechanism includes a cam.
37. The keyboard of claim 36, wherein:
the cam is connected to the bearing element, movement of the cam causing movement of the bearing element.
38. The keyboard of claim 33, wherein:
the joint includes a ball, the bearing element engaging the ball in a locked position to lock the first segment relative to the second segment.
39. The keyboard of claim 33, wherein:
the joint is a ball-and-socket joint.
40. The keyboard of claim 33, wherein:
the locking mechanism includes a biasing element.
41. The keyboard of claim 33, wherein:
the joint includes a ball, the ball being affixed to one of the keyboard segments.
42. The keyboard of claim 41, wherein:
the ball is hemispherical.

43. The keyboard of claim 33, wherein:
the joint includes a socket element, the socket element being affixed to one of the keyboard segments.
44. The keyboard of claim 43, wherein:
the joint includes a ball, the ball being affixed to another of the keyboard segments.
45. The keyboard of claim 33, wherein:
the first keyboard segment and the second keyboard segment are positionable relative to one another to reduce pronation of a user's wrists.
46. The keyboard of claim 33, wherein:
the first keyboard segment and the second keyboard segment are positionable relative to one another to reduce ulnar deviation of a user's wrists.
47. The keyboard of claim 33, wherein:
the joint is adapted to allow pivoting of the first keyboard segment and the second keyboard segment in both horizontal and vertical directions.
48. A method of adjusting a keyboard having first and second segments coupled by a joint, comprising:
providing a locking mechanism including a lever;
unlocking the locking mechanism by pivoting the lever;
moving the first and second segments in at least one plane;
locking the locking mechanism by pivoting the lever to thereby lock a position of the first keyboard segment relative to the second keyboard segment.
49. The method of claim 48, wherein:
the first and second segments are moved in two planes.